

## CAPE: Climate Adaptation Plan for Exeter



### Background:

The climate in which we live has always changed over time, requiring us to adjust or adapt to these changes. While some people disagree with the science of global warming, there are some things we can all agree upon. The Exeter community has seen a marked increase in flooding and the adage "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" rings true. Whatever the ultimate cause, whether it is manmade or a natural cycle, there are many decisions that need to be made today and in the future that will impact how people, infrastructure, and natural resources fare. To prepare for these changes, while engaging local people about local priorities, this project will work over the next two years to first study the vulnerabilities in Exeter and to then develop an adaptation plan.

The process starts with understanding the impacts of present climate conditions on people, infrastructure and natural resources (where are we vulnerable? What needs to be fixed or made secure?). We then determine how things will change under scenarios of future possible climates. Only after these impacts are determined can adaptation planning start. We have to use scenarios of future possible climates because the exact characteristics of the future climate are unknown; the amount of human greenhouse gases to be emitted in the future is unknown and there is still lack of complete understanding of the climate system.

### Supporting Documents

 [UNH Climate Plan for Exeter - Grant Announcement](#)

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